

Contact: Tom Cook 406-444-1645 Release: receipt

## SOCIETY PAGES IN HISTORY "FIGHTING FIRES"

The Montana Historical Society's "Pages in History" book discussion this month is Hal Rothman's "I'll Never Fight Fire With My Bare Hands Again."

Society Archivist Rich Aarstad, who has done extensive research on the history of the timber industry in Montana, will lead the discussion on Thursday (Feb. 28) at 6:30 p.m. in Montana's Museum Auditorium at the Society just east of the Capitol.

"In this engaging collection, Hal Rothman has selected and provided context for the best and most informative letters written by early foresters," Aarstad said.

Among many important topics that ring down to today, Rothman focuses on the difficult regulatory balance to meet the needs of rural communities that depended upon forests for their economy and the needs of the forests themselves.

The book reveals the behind the scenes efforts at fire prevention and suppression, occasional corruption and incompetence and the changing technology of forest management.

Next month's pages in history selection is "1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus" by Charles Mann, which is available in the Society Museum Store. It is suggested that people read the book before the program, but it is not necessary to enjoy the presentation.